



Docket No. 03-00366

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June 13, 2003

TO: Chairman Sara Kyle, Director Debi Tate, ✓ Director Ron Jones,
Director Pat Miller

Ms. Shirley Frierson, Mr. Mark Reineke, Ms. Julie Woodruff,
Ms. Lisa Cooper

FROM: Charlie Howorth *Charlie*

As information, Senator Trail provided the attached statement of his reasons for supporting Senate Bill 523 to the Clerk of the Senate for entry into the Legislative record.

Attachment

RECEIVED
RON JONES
JUN 13 2003
TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY



SENATOR LARRY TRAIL
16th SENATORIAL DISTRICT
BEDFORD, MOORE AND RUTHERFORD
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Senate Chamber
State of Tennessee
NASHVILLE

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AND YOUTH
CHAIR

May 29, 2003

Russell Humphreys
Chief of Staff
1 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Russell,

Pursuant to Senate Rule 61, I am supplying to the Clerk these statements explaining my reasons for my vote on Senate Bill 523 for entry into the record.

This bill provides an important benefit to business customers in Tennessee. Pursuant to the terms of this bill, these customers will be able to enjoy immediate effectiveness of discounted telephone rates, which they negotiate with any telephone utility, whether competitive local exchange carrier or incumbent.

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority has, prior to enactment of this law, overseen contract service arrangements implementing negotiated discount rates. This regulatory process has been different for competitive local exchange carriers as compared to incumbent local exchange carriers. In light of the significant developments in the competitive market in Tennessee for business telephone services, these differences are no longer warranted. Specifically, the delays associated with this review process as applied to CSAs with incumbent carriers are bad for Tennessee business and must be stopped. Under this new legislation, these CSAs will be presumed valid and go into effect upon filing with the TRA.

These changes are warranted by the significant competitive landscape in Tennessee, and they are needed in order to assist Tennessee business in getting the benefit of the rates they negotiate. The practical reality is that businesses, particularly in the current economy, should not face regulatory obstacles that slow the implementation of discounts. Rather, these businesses need and deserve to reap the benefit of discounts immediately. For all of these reasons, I believe Senate Bill 523 is an important and necessary step in continuing the move toward a more competitive telecommunications market in Tennessee. Both Chairman Head in the House and I have chosen to sponsor and support this important legislation to accomplish these important goals.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Trail".
Senator Larry Trail